

GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2021

GEOGRAPHY 684 GFC HOURS (3-2) Fundamentals of Remote Sensing

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	TBA		Web-based
LAB 01	TBA		Web-based

Instructor: Dr. Mallik Mahmud	Office: ES 430
Telephone: 403 220 8449	Email: msmahmud@ucalgary.ca
Email communication will be through your UCalgary email address.	Office hours: By appointment only

The **Department of Geography** condemns the longstanding and continued injustices against those marginalized by racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, xenophobia, able-bodied normativity, mental health profiling, and other forms of prejudice. We are pained by the fact that injustices are unevenly borne. <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/news/anti-racism-statement>

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Department of Geography would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/indigenous/cultural-protocol>

Official Course Description

Theoretical topics include physics of remote sensing data capture, sensor systems, representation and data models, as well as the science behind techniques such as reflectance and radiance calibrations, atmospheric corrections, and image transformations. Applications include topics such as visual interpretation of imagery, supervised and unsupervised image classification, model validation, and accuracy assessment.

Course Objectives

The goal of GEOG 684 is to develop an understanding on fundamentals of optical remote sensing technology and teach student to establish an image classification workflow. Image classification is the most common task in remote sensing of environment. Students will perform image-processing tasks using open-source image processing software and Google Earth Engine: a cloud-based platform for planetary scale environmental analysis. Through Google Earth Engine, students will learn how to access Earth Engine's public data catalog and process imagery on Google infrastructure. In parallel, students will also learn how to write JavaScript code on Earth Engine's integrated code editor.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Geography is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes to which they contribute, and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Identify characteristics of EMR production, transmission & reflection: use wavelength & frequency fluently.	2	1,2
Describe RS history of space and airborne technology @ its current influence.	2	1,2
Perform reflectance & radiance calibrations & correct for atmosphere influence.	3,4,6	2,3
Manipulate data layers, creating colour composites, enhance and visually evaluate satellite and airborne digital images.	3,4,6	1,2
Perform neighbourhood operations on digital images to exploit spatial structure.	4,5,6	1,2
Explain and critique the foundations of RS – including EMR spectrum, energy-matter interactions & the elements of image interpretation.	2,5,7	1,2
Explain and perform RGB colour theory and contrast-enhancements to display multi-band images.	4,5,6	1,2

Explain and perform methods of geometric and radiometric corrections and know when to apply them & to what kinds of data.	4,5,6	1,2
Explain & perform basic image transforms: PCA, Veg Indices, Image Algebra, etc.	4,5,6	1,2
Explain and perform all aspects of classification: supervised/unsupervised, including training and test class selection and accuracy assessments.	2,3,4,5,6	2,3
Explain/critique strengths/limitations of pixel/object-based processing & MAUP.	4,5,6,7	2,3
Write technical reports using standard formats and citation standards.	7,8	2,3

*PLOs = Program Learning Outcomes: 1 = reflect and communicate diverse human-environment perspectives, 2 = identify and explain human-environment processes, 3 = implement sampling, data collection, analyses and communication methods, 4 = analyze spatial and temporal aspects of human-environment systems, 5 = employ knowledge, arguments, and methodologies for solving human-environment problems, 6 = evaluate geospatial data and manipulate it to create cartographic products, 7 = communicate geographic concepts using oral, written, graphic, and cartographic modes, and 8 = demonstrate literacy skills.

**Levels: 1 = Introductory, 2 = Intermediate, and 3 = Advanced.

Prerequisites

Admission to the Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Information Technology or consent of the Department.

Computer skills.

Course Format

This course will be offered in an asynchronous format (i.e., student complete tasks on their own time such as discussion boards, watching videos, etc.).

Learning Resources

Jensen, J.E., 2016. Introductory Digital Image Processing: A Remote Sensing Perspective, 4th Edition. Pearson

Assessment Methods

- Lab assignments (10 assignments @6% each) 60%
- Mid-term Test (2 tests) 40%

Test -1

Start: 08:00 AM on Oct 19, 2021

End: 08:00 AM on Oct 20, 2021

Test -2

Start: 08:00 AM on Nov 30, 2021

End: 08:00 AM on Nov 31, 2021

- There is no final exam for this course.
- It is **not** essential to pass all components in order to pass the course as whole.
- Students can use notes and other resources for the exams, but it is forbidden to talk or communicate with other students about the exam.
- It is **not** acceptable to copy-paste materials into exams or assignments.
- Late assignments will be assessed a 10% penalty per day (including weekend) unless previous arrangements have been made.

Grading System

96 – 100	A+	77 – 80	B	59 – 61	C-
90 – 95	A	71 – 76	B-	55 – 58	D+
86 – 89	A-	65 – 70	C+	50 – 54	D
81 – 85	B+	62 – 64	C	0 – 49	F

A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	Good performance
B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Additional Course Information

In the event that a student misses a midterm or any course work due to illness, supporting documentation, such as a medical note or a statutory declaration may be requested <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html> Please refer to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq> for frequently asked questions concerning the provision of a medical note/statutory declaration. If you miss an assignment or examination, and you provide me a valid excuse, you will have one opportunity to make arrangement for the missed work. Without a valid excuse, you will receive a zero for that portion of your grade.

Exams & Deferrals <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams>

Supplementary Fees

Not applicable.

Referencing Standard

In written work presented in this class, the accepted method for referencing the work of others will be APA: <https://www.mendeley.com/guides/apa-citation-guide>

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and receive a tuition fee refund is **Thursday, September 16th, 2021**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Thursday, December 9th, 2021**.

For additional detailed course information posted by the instructor, visit the course Desire2Learn page online at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>.

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the

procedures outlined in the calendar at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, such as outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they must provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Research

Not Applicable

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

Graded assignments will be returned by the instructor or teaching assistant personally during scheduled lecture or laboratory periods, unless they are made available electronically through the course D2L webpage. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Geography's main office and assignments cannot be dropped off at the Department Office.

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations, according to the university policies and procedures listed in the University Calendar.

The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the Department Head (email: freeman@ucalgary.ca).

Online courses

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology.

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates
- A current and updates web browser
- Webcam (built in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built in or external) or headset with microphone
- Broadband internet connection
- At least 4GB of RAM is required to use the open access software (e.g., SNAP).

Use of internet and electronic devices in class

Not applicable

Timed Assessments for Online Courses

- Students will be provided with a 24-hour window in which they can access and complete a timed online assessment, except in those cases where prior approval has been obtained from the Dean of the faculty offering the course to host a synchronous assessment where students start and end at the same time (i.e., a common assessment time).
- If a timed assignment cannot be started or completed due to emergencies, technical difficulties, caregiving responsibilities, or distractions within a students' test-taking environment; the course instructor must be informed immediately so that an alternative arrangement can be made can include (but are not limited to) additional time for completion of the assessment, or an alternative time to complete the assessment for students that experienced issues.

- Accommodation requirements through Student Accessibility Services still apply. The time allocated for issues that arise during an assessment would be in addition to accommodation requirements. See Section **G (Examination and Tests)** for additional details.
- A week before the schedule timed assignment, the instructor will be discussing the process of the assignment in more details.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published with the instructor’s permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behavior in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your Zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Media Recording (if applicable)

Please check the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Course evaluations and student feedback

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms.

Accessibility

Students required to see the full lecture recording to have complete information on the lecture content.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Act.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness, and academic success and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support, or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to email the **Student at Risk line** if they or others appear to need wellness assistance: sar@ucalgary.ca For more immediate response, please call: 403-210-9355 and select option #2.

Sexual Violence Policy

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts – 403-220-3913, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Ombuds Office information can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management>

Campus Safewalk

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus, including the LRT station, parking lots, bus zones, and university residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your campus destination.